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Keeping partners together in a H2020 application and project

Urban Lundin
Electrical Engineering



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What (is the challenge)?





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When (is it challenging)?

The cooperation starts already at the application stage – ensure you have a good report with the other partners.



The application process



The project



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Think of your own role

Which role will I take/do I want to take/do I need to take:

- Follow the leader or be a participant
 - What if the leader does not lead?
- Do my own thing no matter what the call is about and what the WP leader says
- Conform to the call text, maybe outside my comfort zone
- Is this one of my 20 other projects. Can I hire a PhD-student to take on the task and expect the student to form collaborative projects? (BTW the answer is, in most cases, NO)





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WP leader



Good WP leaders have to do a bit of both

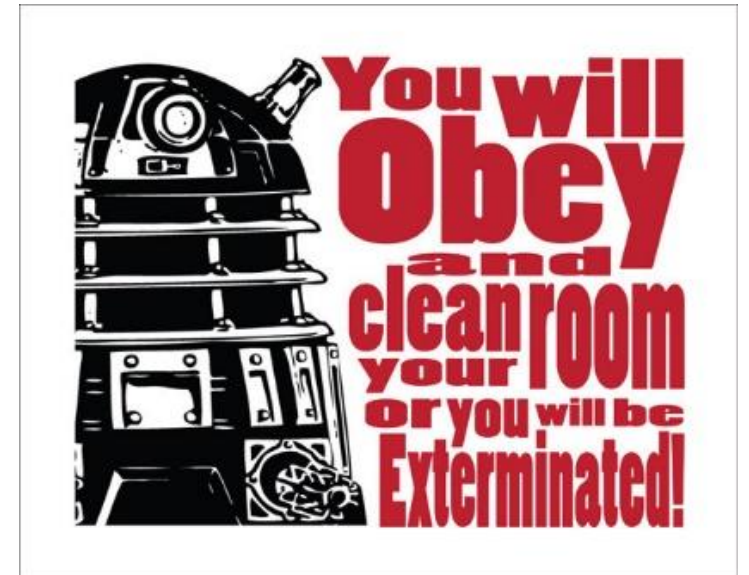




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Challenges in being a WP-leader

- Handle partners not delivering





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2 stories

Consortium that works

- Good start
- Partners getting to know each other

Consortium that struggles

- Good start
- Partners know each other well by now

Something happens in the endurance race



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Story 1- WP/Consortium that struggles

- WP leader does not lead or has an impossible job

Question: does the leader have an impossible job because of the partners or because of the leadership?

- Partners have their own agenda/ideas to pursue

Does the partners have their own agenda because of the lack of leadership or common vision?



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Story 2- Consortium & collaboration that works

- Partners see the benefits of working together
- Partners care about the deliverables of others



Things I have seen that worked well - in the application phase

- Regular meetings
- Listen to all ideas, some crazy ideas turn out be not that crazy
- Make everyone feel that they fill a part of a bigger project, even outside their field
- Make sure everyone agrees with the common vision & understand the project's limits and possibilities



Things I have seen that worked well - during the project

- Regular meetings with an agenda, but not too regular so people have nothing to say
- Make everyone feel that they fill a part of a bigger project, even outside their field
- Ensure all give feedback on others tasks and deliverables
- Early heads up before deadlines, alert project administrator
- A review/conference paper of the field that everyone has a part in early after the start
- Create 'lagom' interdependencies
 - Too strong: a delay cause a lot of frustration
 - Too soft: they do not care about partners or their actions



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Some Do's and Dont's

Do

- Engage and keep and look for points of common interest
- Bring in external partners if possible and needed
- Get a good grip of the budget and spending plan
- Delegate

Don't

- Get into projects with too many partners on a small budget
- Get into projects with too few partners for the task ahead
- Promise too much
- Overspend on resources



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Thank you for your attention!